

CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

*A Statement Adopted
by the Triennial Meeting
of the Woman's Auxiliary
Boston, Mass. 1952*

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THIS IS OUR
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BUSINESS

WHEREAS the women of the Church look to the Triennial Meeting for leadership in defining their programs of action, and

WHEREAS such programs should include recognition of our responsibilities, as Christian citizens, both for personal service and work with groups in Church and community, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Triennial Meeting endorse the following statement of principles as a guide to the women of the Church for the coming triennium:

The Lambeth Conference of 1948 adopted this statement which we wish to make our own: "We believe that Christians generally are called by God to take their part in the life of the world and, through the power of God's grace, to transform it."

Therefore, we believe that, as women of the Church, we must exemplify this call through personal Christian living, and through helping to create a sense of moral integrity and the *will* to apply Christian principles in the economic, social, and political order;

As Christian citizens, we must prepare ourselves through prayer, study, and discipline for aggressive action to combat with forces for good the forces of evil which we know are powerful, well organized, and active in their attempts to destroy faith in the United Nations, the National Council of Churches, and the integrity of our school systems.

Therefore, we believe that, during the triennium, it is imperative for the women of the Church, in their own groups and in co-operation

with other local groups of Christian women and the Department of United Church Women of the National Council of Churches to

Pray as individuals and corporately

Inform themselves

Develop convictions

Exert their influence in the light of Christian principles with reference to issues such as:

The responsibility of the United States for support of and participation in the United Nations and its various specialized agencies, such as UNESCO, the World Health Organization, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund;

The need for humility on the part of the United States in our country's position of world leadership;

Economic and technical assistance to underprivileged and underdeveloped areas at home and overseas to help raise standards of living;

Resettlement of homeless people of the world and friendship to those who have settled in this country and to guests of the United States, especially foreign students;

Protection of our freedoms, such as free speech, against threats from without and within, lest we be led into fighting communism with its own methods;

Extension of human rights to all, both at home and abroad, regardless of race, color, and creed, with special emphasis on our own parishes and communities;

Ways to effect betterment of community living for all in our communities;

Extension of the privilege of the vote to all in

our nation who still lack that privilege: members of minority groups where still disfranchised, and citizens residing in the nation's capital.

And, furthermore, we believe that in this election year we should emphasize the duty and the privilege of every Churchwoman to be a conscientious, informed and intelligent voter. We believe that this includes praying for candidates, the placing of issues before personalities, the participation by individual Churchwomen in such groups as will make for intelligent voting, and the creation of a new attitude toward and new respect for good public servants.

In adopting this statement of our obligations and defining some of our areas for concern, we would affirm our agreement with these words of the Bishop of Washington, the Rt. Rev. Angus Dun: "God is concerned in everything that affects man. Christ is Lord of all. The Church cannot withdraw into a corner to deal with a private specialty called religion, and leave vast areas of human life outside its concern."

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O God our Father, grant we beseech thee, that we as a people may found our policy in both social and international relations upon thy eternal laws of love, brotherhood, and right. Remove from us all pride, self-seeking, and desire of unfair gain. Create a new spirit of mutual confidence between nations, classes and individuals, that we may dwell together in unity and brotherhood, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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